

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 R

DRAFTED BY USN:CMD. MCCOY/NEA/INS:BWBROWN,JR:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

DOD/ISA:JNOYES

PM/ISO:MPASZTALANIEC

----- 064480

R 122125Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO SECDEF

CNO

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCPACFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 007074

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, US, IN

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS INVOLVING BUZZING OF INDIAN NAVAL  
SHIP BY U.S. AIRCRAFT

REF: NEW DELHI 16181

1. REFTEL REPORTED GOI CONCERN REGARDING SEVEN REPORTED  
INCIDENTS DURING PAST FOURTEEN MONTHS WHEREIN U.S. AIR-  
CRAFT ALLEGEDLY BUZZED INDIAN NAVAL VESSELS. POST REPORTS  
WERE REVIEWED TO DERIVE INFORMATION AND CONFIRM WHETHER  
OR NOT USN P-3 TYPE AIRCRAFT FLIGHTS WERE FLOWN IN  
VICINITY OF ALLEGED INCIDENTS. RECORDS INDICATE NO P-3  
FLIGHTS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE VICINITY OF CAR NICOBAR  
ISLAND ON 16 SEP 1974. POST SUMMARY REPORTS FOR ALL OTHER  
INCIDENTS INCLUDE SIGHTING REPORTS OF UNKNOWN OR INDIAN  
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NAVAL VESSELS IN THE VICINITY OF ALLEGED BUZZINGS. ALL

RECOGNITION/IDENTIFICATION OR PHOTO PASSES OF THESE FLIGHTS WERE CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH USN STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) AND WOULD NOT BE CLASSIFIED AS BUZZINGS BY USN. FYI: CINCPACFLT INSTRUCTIONS SPECIFY A CLOSEST POINT OF APPROACH OF 300 FEET FOR

MERCHANT VESSEL AND 500 FEET FOR NAVAL VESSEL AND A MINIMUM OVERFLIGHT ALTITUDE OF 500 FEET FOR EITHER.  
END FYI.

2. WITH REGARD TO INDIAN NAVAL OPERATIONS DURING THE RECENT CENTO EXERCISE, MIDLINK 75, THE FOLLOWING INFO IS PROVIDED. A FOUR SHIP INDIAN TASK GROUP (TG) INCLUDING INS VIKRANT (R-11), HIMGIRI (F-34), KIRPAN (F-44) AND TRISHUL (F-43) CONDUCTED PORT VISITS IN THE PERSIAN GULF UNTIL 17 NOV 75 THEN DEPARTED FOR BOMBAY. THE AT-SEA PHASES OF THE CENTO EXERCISE COVERED THE PERIOD 19-27 NOV. THE INDIAN TG HAD TRANSITED THE EXERCISE AREA PRIOR TO MOST MIDLINK UNITS GETTING UNDERWAY FROM BANDAR ABBAS, IRAN. HOWEVER, THE VIKRANT TG WAS IN THE VICINITY OF USS MIDWAY, 23-27N/061-27E, ON 18 NOV WITH ALL BUT HIMGIRI CONTINUING ON TO INDIA. HIMGIRI LINGERED IN THE AREA APPARENTLY CONDUCTING SURVEILLANCE OF EXERCISE MIDLINK OPERATIONS AND WAS LAST SIGHTED 21 NOV BY MIDWAY ACFT AT 24-17N/059-37E. A FIFTH INDIAN SHIP, INS BRAHMAPUTRA (F-31), NOT PART OF THE VIKRANT TG, WAS DETECTED IN THE EXERCISE AREA 21 NOV. BRAHMAPUTRA CONTINUED TO BE DETECTED THROUGH 25 NOV POSSIBLY REPRESENTING A SPECIAL INDIAN EFFORT TO OBSERVE MIDLINK.

3. THE ONLY ENCOUNTER WITH INDIAN AIR FORCES DURING MIDLINK OCCURED 18 NOV. ON THAT DATE MIDWAY IDENTIFIED VIKRANT FROM MOONLIGHT SILHOUETTE AND FLASHING LIGHT EXCHANGE. CLOSEST POINT OF APPROACH OF VIKRANT WAS APPROX 12 NM. VIKRANT AND UNIDENTIFIED ESCORT WERE ON COURSE 120 DEGREES TRUE SPEED 20 KTS. AT 182156Z NOV, AT POSIT 23-43N/061-01E, MIDWAY GAINED VISUAL CONTACT OF A HELO AS IT APPROACHED THE SHIP AT VERY LOW ALT. HELO CLOSED MIDWAY AND MADE PASS DOWN PORT SIDE AT ABOUT ONE NM. HELO FLEW TO USS FANNING (FF-1076), MADE PASS DOWN  
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PORT SIDE, THEN DEPARTED THE AREA IN THE DIRECTION OF VIKRANT.

4. WE BELIEVE EMBASSY SHOULD NOT VOLUNTEER ANY OF ABOVE INFO TO GOI. IF RAISED BY GOI, HOWEVER, YOU MAY DRAW ON ALL EXCEPT FYI PORTION OF PARA 1 FOR YOUR ANSWER. YOU MAY ADD THAT CINCPAC HAS REITERATED SOP AND DIRECTED HIS PERSONNEL TO AVOID ANY ACTIVITY WHICH COULD BE DESCRIBED

AS "HARASSMENT" OR "BUZZING". (REF CINCPAC 2020112  
DEC 75). KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SHIP HARASSMENT, NAVAL SHIPS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** CMD. MCCOY/NEA/INS:BWBROWN,JR:MMK  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760011-0582  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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